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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EVERETT].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 17, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable TERRY EVERETT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We speak about Your sovereignty, O God, and yet we often act as if You did not exist; our prayers of devotion call upon Your name and yet we think we can walk alone; our public petitions invoke Your grace and yet privately we do not care; our mouths call upon You with requests and appeals and yet our hearts and souls go their own way. Slow us down, O gracious God, and turn us to the truth to see You as the author of all creation, the redeemer of all

that is good, the pilot that gives us direction and our guardian through all the perils of life. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DINGELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ON MEDICARE

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, like the many seniors who have contacted me, I am shocked that the Republican budget slashes Medicare by \$270 billion.

It now appears that Republicans are preparing to end Medicare as we know it. Recent media reports indicate that they want to privatize this valuable program, as they did when it was enacted in 1965.

Sadly, the Republicans are hiding their plans for reforming Medicare. The current legislative schedule allows for only a few days in September to introduce, review, and vote on their proposed changes. If my colleagues across the aisle have such wonderful ideas for

ensuring the solvency of Medicare and the health of their seniors, why are they keeping them a secret? What are they afraid of?

It appears that they are trying to sneak their radical and extreme cuts by the American public. I can understand why they would be inclined to do so, given the fact that they are also pushing a \$240 billion tax cut for the wealthy.

Raiding Medicare to pay for this unwise tax cut will inflict unacceptable pain on this Nation's seniors. Out-of-pocket expenses for seniors will rise by \$850 by the year 2002. These cuts will also greatly diminish the ability of older Americans to access quality care.

Seniors have a right to know what is in store for Medicare, especially if they are being asked to bear skyrocketing premiums and limited access to care to help finance tax breaks for the wealthy.

I call upon my Republican colleagues to deliver a full and open debate on how best to improve and strengthen Medicare. I also urge them to join me in rejecting the unfair tax break/Medicare cut tradeoff being advanced.

DO NOT TAKE AWAY HEALTH CARE SECURITY FROM OUR SENIORS

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, while I was in my district yesterday, I met senior citizens who are frightened. They don't have much money to spare, and they watch what they spend. They are worried that they will lose the security of Medicare.

They understand that cuts to Medicare are not reform. They understand that they will pay more.

I share their concern. The Republicans say they will give seniors more

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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choice. But they do not mention that many seniors cannot afford the choice. Our elderly will pay more and get less.

Republicans say they must cut Medicare to save it. If my Republican colleagues are concerned about the Medicare Program, why do they cut Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich? This will not help Medicare.

Thirty years ago, Congress and the President signed a sacred trust with our seniors—Medicare. We must not stand by while that trust is broken.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to issue a wake-up call to the American people. I want to say to the American voters: Please watch closely what's happening here in Congress. I don't think you'll like what you'll see.

What you'll see during this appropriations process is a back-door attack on the environment. Instead of reauthorizing and finetuning laws in the light of day, this Congress is covertly starving programs to death through lack of funding.

The American people trust that the environmental laws that we've had on the books for the past two decades will continue to be enforced, because they're law. Wrong. This new Republican Congress is in the process of: Taking away money from the Fish and Wildlife Service which lists species that are on the brink of extinction; taking away money from the EPA which stops polluters from dumping waste into our rivers; and taking away money from the Forest Service which ensures logging operations don't harm salmon spawning habitat.

So even if though there's a law soon to protect the environment, there will be no money to enforce it.

America, is this really what you voted for? I don't think so.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 14, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, July 14, 1995 at 10:18 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the fourth biennial report (1995-2000) to the United States Arctic Research Plan.

Sincerely yours,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

BIENNIAL REVISION TO U.S. ARCTIC RESEARCH PLAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, as amended (15 U.S.C. 4108(a)), I transmit herewith the fourth biennial revision (1995-2000) to the United States Arctic Research Plan.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 14, 1995.

REPUBLICAN SNEAK ATTACK ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that the new Republican majority in the House is carrying out what is in effect a sneak attack on public health, on environmental protection and on our national park system, among other things.

Following the unfortunate example of James Watt, they are distorting the normal legislative process around here, acting against House rules by using the appropriations process to rewrite law and reshape policy, so that they can achieve, by stealth, objectives that lack real public support.

We saw the start of this pattern with the first rescissions bill, with its pages of legislative language waiving environmental and forest management laws, language that under the normal rules of the House should not have been in any bill of that kind.

We are seeing it again now in the Interior appropriations bill, which we will take up again later today, with its provisions to dissolve the National Biological Service, transfer its functions to the U.S. Geological Service, again, legislating on an appropriations bill, again, an attack on research and on sound wildlife conservation; also, in the same bill, with its provisions to essentially eliminate the Mojave National Preserve in California as a unit of the National Park Service, by a back door attack instead of a straightforward proposal to repeal or amend the California Desert Protection Act.

Later this week we will see it in even more outrageous ways when the full Committee on Appropriations takes up the bill to fund the Environmental Protection Agency. That bill has more riders than the Long Island Railroad. Most of them are intended to prevent the government from doing its job in protecting our water, our air, our wetlands, our health. Let us just take a look quickly at the passenger count, the number of riders on that bill.

In just 7 pages of the bill dealing with the EPA, there are 21 anti-environment riders, including the following provisions: blocking enforcement of air pollution permits; limiting enforcement of storm water and sanitary sewer provisions in the Water Pollution Control Act; handicapping the EPA's ability under the Clean Air Act to regulate toxic emissions from certain refineries; putting other limits on enforcing environmental laws affecting other parts of the oil and gas industry; stopping EPA from taking steps to keep arsenic, radon and other radionuclei out of our drinking water; limiting the EPA's efforts to control toxic releases from cement kilns and other incinerators; restricting the gathering and publishing of information about the use of chemicals; restricting the protection of the country's wetlands, blocking efforts to encourage car pooling; restricting efforts to improve water quality in the Great Lakes; and, undermining the regulation of pesticides in foods.

Mr. Speaker, the pattern could not be clearer. Just take a look at it, page after page of regressive anti-environmental and underhanded provisions aimed at handcuffing efforts to protect our food supply, keep our air and water clean, protect vital wetlands, all things vital to our natural systems all over the country.

It is no wonder, Mr. Speaker, that Carol Browner, the EPA administrator, has concluded that we are seeing "an organized, concerted effort to undermine public health and safety and the environment."

If anything, Carol Browner understates the situation. The American people need to know what is going on. They need to know that this new Republican majority is determined to undermine the progress that we have made in the last several decades in protecting our environment, progress that the American people are proud of and want to see continued. They need to know that we are in the midst of a full-fledged attack on the safeguards of the water we drink and the air we breathe. They need to know because, when they do know, they will reject this assault on public health, public safety and public lands.

We need to be doing more, not less, to clean up the environment and to protect people's health.

For instance, two new studies this year tell us that 53 million Americans are drinking tap water that is below standards. What is the response of the new majority here in the Congress to this? To do more to clean up the nation's water? No. The Republican response is to come up with eight different legislative riders to determine the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Hard to imagine.

This Republican sneak attack on the environment should not and will not go unopposed. The American people did not vote last November to roll back 25 years of environmental progress. They